Amendments to claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application. Please amend claims 15 and 21 as indicated.

Claims 1-14 (cancelled).

1

Claim ~~15.~~ (currently amended): A porous insulating film consisting essentially of a highly heat resistant polyimide resin film having a fine porous structure wherein:

a) fine continuous channels reaching to both surfaces of the insulating film in a nonlinear fashion have a mean pore size of 0.01 – 2 μm in the center of the film and 0.4 – 0.9 ~~0.14 – 2.8~~ μm at both surfaces of the film and a porosity of 15 – 80%;

b) the polyimide resin film is prepared from a polyimide precursor solution and consists essentially of a polyimide obtained from the combination of at least one tetracarboxylic acid component and a diamine component; and

c) the insulating film has

a thickness of 5 – 150 μm,

a resistance to passage of air of from 30 sec/100 cc to 2000 sec/100 cc and

a heat shrinkage of not greater than about ± 1% after being heat-treated at 105°C for 8 hours and

does not contain a dense layer on either of the surfaces.

Claim 16. (previously presented): The porous insulating film according to claim 15, wherein the mean pore size in the center of the film is 0.05 – 1 μm.

2

Claim ~~17.~~ (previously presented): The porous insulating film according to claim 15, wherein the porosity is 30 – 80%.

3

Claim ~~18.~~ (previously presented): The porous insulating film according to claim 15, wherein the thickness is 5 – 100 μm.

4 1

Claim ~~19~~. (previously presented): The porous insulating film according to claim ~~15~~, which is fabricated by a film casting method.

5 1

Claim ~~20~~. (previously presented): The porous insulating film according to claim ~~15~~, which has a dielectric constant of no greater than 2.5.

7

Claim ~~21~~. (currently amended): A porous insulating film consisting essentially of a highly heat resistant polyimide resin film having a fine porous structure wherein:

a) fine continuous channels reaching to both surfaces of the insulating film in a nonlinear fashion have a mean pore size of 0.01 – 2 μm in the center of the film and 0.4 – 0.9 ~~0.14 – 2.8~~ μm at both surfaces of the film; and

b) the polyimide resin film is prepared from a polyimide precursor solution and consists essentially of a polyimide obtained from the combination of at least one tetracarboxylic acid component and a diamine component and

c) the insulating film has

a thickness of 5 – 100 μm,

a resistance to passage of air of from 30 sec/100 cc to 2000 sec/100 cc,

a heat resistance temperature of at least 200°C and

a heat shrinkage of not greater than ±1% after being heat-treated at 105°C for 8 hours and

does not contain a dense layer on either of the surfaces.

8

Claim ~~22~~. (previously presented): A battery separator comprising a porous insulating film according to claim 21.

10 1

7 Claim ~~23~~. (previously presented): The porous insulating film according to claim ~~15~~ or ~~21~~, wherein the tetracarboxylic acid component is selected from a biphenyltetracarboxylic dianhydride, pyromellitic dianhydride and a benzophenonetetracarboxylic dianhydride.

12

7 Claim ~~24~~. (previously presented): The porous insulating film according to claim ~~15~~ 1 or ~~21~~, wherein the diamine component is selected from a phenylenediamine or a diaminodiphenylether.

6

Claim ~~25~~. (previously presented): The porous insulating film according to claim 15, wherein the pores in the porous structure are arranged in the film substantially parallel to the film surfaces.

11 10

Claim ~~26~~. (previously presented): The porous insulating film according to claim ~~23~~, wherein the biphenyltetracarboxylic dianhydride is 3,3',4,4'-biphenyltetracarboxylic dianhydride.

9

Claim ~~27~~. (previously presented): The porous insulating film according to claim 21, wherein the pores in the porous structure are arranged in the film substantially parallel to the film surfaces.